

February 9, 2016

Appropriations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

To the chairperson and members of the committee,

I have been a faculty member at UConn Health for the past 16 years, and I greatly appreciate the generosity of the state over the years in helping support the state's medical and dental school. In particular, I am grateful for the wise and forward-looking investment in the Bioscience CT program, including a new hospital, outpatient pavilion, and renovation of existing laboratory space, as well as a collaboration with Jackson Labs, that has made our campus a truly state of the art facility everyone in the state can be proud of. But a building without the funds to support its faculty, staff, and infrastructure is truly a hollow shell. Buildings cannot treat patients, find cures for disease, or train the next generation of health professionals. That requires funding to attract and retain the very best physicians, dentists, researchers, and educators. It requires funding to pay for heat and lights and for plowing the parking lots. The \$8 million proposed cut to the UCH block grant would make it impossible to carry out the important missions that the state has entrusted in us. Having already invested so heavily, why would it make sense to pull the rug out from under an institution just as it is poised to make good on those investments? The promise of jobs that pay well, improved healthcare for residents, a thriving biotechnology industry, and so much more hang in the balance. Short-term savings could have devastating long-term impact on this institution. I urge you to take the long view and provide the resources UCH needs to thrive and grow.

Sincerely,



Bruce J. Mayer
Professor and Vice-chair
Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences
UConn Health